

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS

ON

Week ending the 20th January 1883.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
Khas Mehal settlements	21	The widow of Fazalali Chowdhuri and the Collector	
Recovery of rents in khas mehals	ib.	of Chittagong	24
Division of Sylhet into two districts	ib.	Ditto ditto	ib.
The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation	ib.	The Bengal Municipal Bill	ib.
The official Hindi translation of a certain official		Mr. Rivers Thompson on the Native Press	ib.
paper	22	Dacoities in British Burmah	25
Native Assistant Engineers allowed to study in Europe	ib.	A suit against the Cuttack municipality	ib.
Mr. Rivers Thompson	ib.	Proposed Rent Law	ib.
Release of the Wahabee prisoners	23	1882. A Retrospect	26
Mr. Wright, Subordinate Judge of Cuttack	ib.	Dishonest Post-masters	ib.
The Sonarpur-Mugra Railway—a new station	ib.	An unhealthy Uriya village	ib.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Bhārat Hitaishī"	Burrisal	.....
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	12th January 1883.
5	"Jātiya Suhrid"	Calcutta	.....
6	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha"	Commillah	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
7	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	8th ditto.
8	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	12th and 19th January 1883.
9	"Bangabāsi"	Ditto	.....	13th January 1883.
10	"Bārtābaha"	Pubna	.....
11	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Calcutta	.....
12	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing	671	
13	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
14	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296	
15	"Chāruvārtā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	8th and 15th January 1883.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	
17	"Dūt"	Calcutta	.....
18	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	12th and 19th ditto.
19	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	.....
20	"Halisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta	.....
21	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
22	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	1st, 8th, and 15th ditto.
23	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
24	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
25	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	15th January 1883.
26	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	7th ditto.
27	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
28	"Rajshāhye Samvād"	Beauleah	.....
29	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakinia, Rungpore	250	18th ditto.
30	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	14th ditto.
31	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	17th ditto.
32	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	15th ditto.
33	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing	.....
34	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	6th and 13th January 1883.
35	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI—concluded.				
<i>Daily.</i>				
36	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	5th to 18th January 1883.
37	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	8th to 20th ditto.
38	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	8th to 19th ditto.
39	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	6th to 20th ditto.
40	"Prabhātī"	Ditto	.....
41	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	13th January 1883.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	11th ditto.
44	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	8th and 15th January 1883.
45	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	6th and 13th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta	250	12th January 1883.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Akhhār-i-Darussaltanat"	Calcutta	.....
<i>Bi-Weekly.</i>				
48	"Amir-ul-Akhhār"	Calcutta	.....	16th ditto.
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
49	"Assam Vilāsinī"	Sibsagar	.....
URIYA.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
50	"Utkāl Dīpikā"	Cuttack	200	30th December 1882.
51	"Utkāl Darpan"	Balasore	160	31st ditto.
52	"Balasore Samvād Vāhikā"	Ditto	125	4th January 1883.
53	"Purusottam Patrikā"	Pooree	.....
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
54	"Mayurbhunj Pākshik Pātrikā"	Mayurbhunj	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
55	"Kshatriya Patrikā"	Patna	.....

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

MEDINI,
January 1st, 1883.

The *Medini*, of the 1st January, observes that if Government really desired to amend the law relating to the settlement of khas mehals, it should take the opportunity of amending, or, if need be, of repealing the Public Demands Recovery Act. On the strength of this latter measure, and in utter disregard of civil law, Collectors do what they please, with a view to obtain the approbation of the Board of Revenue. The private character of Mr. Wilson, the Collector of Midnapore, is so unexceptionable that one would hardly believe him to be capable of any highhandedness; and yet, being a weak-minded man, and acting under evil counsel, he has allowed himself to do wrong. The following instances are then mentioned:—(1) Muktamani Dasi, a mukrari aymadar of Balarampore pergunnah, has had her ayma sold by auction under the certificate procedure, in order to realize from her an enhanced rent, although a suit regarding this matter is pending in the Civil Court; (2) Bihari Lal Ghosh, a ryot of mouzah Araseni in pergunnah Balarampore, through fear of being criminally prosecuted, was obliged to pay rent at the rate fixed by the local authorities during his minority. It is easy to see how executive officers vested with judicial powers manage to gain their ends. The ryots of khas mehals who are unable to pay enhanced rents are not unoften kept in prison until they pay the Government demand, and in this matter no heed is paid to the requirements of the law. As a case in point, the writer refers to the action of Mr. Wilson in having recently arrested a ryot of khas mehal Balarampore without even having issued a certificate or warrant against him.

MEDINI.

2. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of Government to the oppressions attending the enforcement of the certificate procedure under the Public Demands Recovery Act. Quite recently the acting Nazir, Ram Narayan Bhuayan, attached to the khas mehal office at Heryá in Midnapore, accompanied by a number of Mahommedan peons, forcibly entered the private apartments of Damadar Meykap of Haludbari, a defaulting ryot, broke all his utensils, and had him bound by his peons.

PARIDARSHAK,
January 7th, 1883.

3. The *Paridarshak*, of the 7th January, regrets to find that all its protests against the proposed division of Sylhet into two districts have been disregarded, and that Government has decided upon the measure. To minimise, however, the evil consequences that are likely to result from this proceeding, the editor would suggest that the head-quarters of the district of south Sylhet, which will probably be formed by the transfer to it of certain portions of Mymensingh and Tipperah, should be fixed at Habigunge, and not, as is said, at Moulvi Bazar, and that there should be two District Judges for the two districts.

PARIDARSHAK.

4. In continuation of the observations noticed in paragraph 2 of our report dated the 6th January 1883, the same paper makes the following remarks regarding the Assam land and revenue draft regulation:—There is nothing particularly to be said regarding chapter IV of the draft regulation. It is not bad to lay down rules for registration; in fact such rules exist at the present time. There are, however, two points connected with this chapter which appear to call for some remark. These are (1) the penalty provided for in sections 65 and 66 of the regulation, for failure to register. This is quite disproportionate to the offence referred to; defaulters should be more leniently treated. (2) If sections 60 and 66 be read together, it will be found that they in a manner contradict each other.

The Assam Land and Revenue
Regulation.

While section 60 makes it quite optional with existing proprietors to apply for registration, section 66 appears to make registration compulsory on all, inasmuch as failure to register, it is declared, will absolve ryots from obligation to pay rent. Chapter V lays down the procedure for realizing the arrears of revenue. The rules applicable to temporarily-settled mehals are not bad, but the enforcement of the sunset law as regards permanently settled estates will prove very injurious to the interests of landholders. No necessity has arisen for this new legislation.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
January 8th, 1883.

Hindi translation of Government letter on the subject of giving greater publicity to legislative measures.

5. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 8th January, is not satisfied with the official Hindi translation of the recent Government letter on the subject of giving increased publicity to legislative measures. The translation is set up in a character which is almost illegible, and the style is far from idiomatic or popular.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 8th, 1883.

Native Assistant Engineers allowed to proceed to England for study.

6. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 8th January, speaks of the recent resolution of the Government of India on the subject of allowing a certain number of native Assistant Engineers to annually proceed to England for the purpose of completing their professional education at the expense of the State, as another proof of Lord Ripon's love for the people of this country. His Excellency deserves their gratitude for this measure; but Natives have ceased to have any confidence in State scholarships. Owing to Lord Ripon's exertions a few Natives will probably be enabled to proceed to England to complete their engineering education; but it is very likely that these newly-founded State scholarships will be abolished as soon as the authorities come to perceive that they are calculated to interfere with the prospects of the successful students of the Cooper's Hill College. This was the case with Lord Lawrence's State scholarships, which were abolished as soon as they were found to have become the means of enabling Baboo Romesh Chandra Datta and others to enter the Indian Civil Service. Possibly a similar fate awaits the scholarships now founded by Lord Ripon. There are, however, no such doubts as to the permanency of the agricultural scholarships, inasmuch as both Government and the English manufacturer have a strong interest in making the natives of India stick to agriculture. An agricultural people would cease to trouble Government for political rights or appointments under the public service, the latter of which could then be safely bestowed upon Europeans and East Indians, while the pursuit of agriculture by natives of India would enable the European manufacturer to command an unlimited supply of raw materials.

BANGABASI,
January 13th, 1883.

Mr. Rivers Thompson.

7. The following is a summary of an article on Mr. Rivers Thompson in the *Bangabasi*, of the 13th January: Lack of confidence has naturally followed excessive confidence. A knowledge of what Sir Ashley Eden had done during the earlier years of his official career, and subsequently in the Bengal Secretariat, had led the people to expect much from him when he became Lieutenant-Governor. How far those expectations were fulfilled is well known. Suffice it to say that when Sir Ashley took leave of Bengal, with the exception of a few flatterers and a few ladies, the country dismissed him with a smiling face. Next came Mr. Rivers Thompson, whose advent was heralded by Anglo-Indian newspapers with loud epithets of "righteous," "pious," &c. Remembering his good deeds in Burmah, educated natives were willing to forget the abuse which he hurled in the Indian Council Chamber at Babus Kunjoolal Banerji and Kristo Das Pal, when the Assam Coolie Bill was passed into law. But the measure by which he will be judged—the Local Self-Government Bill—has at last come up. The observations made by him on this subject, however, are not very assuring.

Mr. Rivers Thompson, it is said, is a Liberal Conservative in politics. It is not, however, known with certainty how far he is a Liberal from conviction and how far from fear of offending the Viceroy. But his professions show that he is an out-and-out conservative, like the great majority of the Civilians in this country. Sir James Fergusson has indeed been found out, but a little tact may easily enable a Conservative to pass for a Liberal. Mr. Rivers Thompson, it would seem, is not, after all, a strong advocate of Local Self-Government; why, otherwise, did he, while making so much of a Municipal Bill, quietly hurry over the principle of Local Self-Government? There is another point connected with the present administration which ought to be noticed here. During Sir Ashley Eden's rule, any reference contained in the newspapers of any act of highhandedness on the part of magisterial officers was promptly noticed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and means were used to put a stop to the evil. Now it is not at all likely that the Civilians have all become saints under Mr. Thompson's *regime*,—nay, the newspapers frequently contain references to the illegal doings of particular officers. Why are not the public made acquainted with the action taken by the Lieutenant-Governor in these cases? Does not this show that His Honor is rather willing, like the Conservatives, to ignore the faults of men belonging to his own party? The bestowal on Mr. Garrett of an appointment hitherto reserved for members of the Uncovenanted Service, the appointment of Mr. Henderson as Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, in supersession of the claims of Mr. B. L. Gupta, and of Mr. Bellett as Officiating Director of Public Instruction, in utter disregard of the claims of the able, old, and respected Inspector Baboo Bhudeb Mookerjee; the distribution of patronage vested in the hands of Messrs. Graft and Reynolds in the Educational and Subordinate Executive Service,—Are not these things extremely reprehensible? The prevailing notion is that Mr. Rivers Thompson casts his favourable look first upon Europeans, then upon East Indians, then upon Hindus, and lastly upon Mahomedans, and that he considers the words of one Christain as being more worthy of credence than those of a hundred Hindus. Now, does not this prevailing notion regarding the Lieutenant-Governor receive support from his acts? The Editor then condemns the action of the Bengal Legislative Council in having included, purely from considerations of revenue, fresh date-juice among exciseable articles.

8. The *Sadharani*, of the 14th January, is exceedingly gratified to find that of his own motion has Lord Ripon

SADHARANI,
January 14th, 1883.

The release of the Wahabee prisoners.

given the order for the release of the Wahabee prisoners. This action clearly shows the greatness and strength of mind and the strong sense of justice possessed by the present Viceroy; and the release of the Wahabees will remove a long-standing blot from the reputation of Government.

9. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of Government to the fact that Mr. W. Wright, the Subordinate Judge of Cuttack, has remained in his present post for the last sixteen years.

SADHARANI.

Mr. Wright, subordinate Judge of Cuttack.

His sheristadar also has held his present post for three years above the pension period. The writer further states that, in utter disregard of the orders of the High Court, the sheristadar sits in the Court when civil suits are being heard, and that the procedure followed by the Subordinate Judge is often irregular and illegal.

10. The *Som Prokash*, of the 15th January, directs the attention of the authorities of the Sonarpore-Mugra Railway to the desirability of setting up a station at Changripota, which is a populous and flourishing

SOM PRAKASH,
January 15th, 1883.

The Sonarpore and Mugra Railway station at Changripota.

village. The writer adduces arguments to show that if a station were

established there, the railway would be able to attract a large traffic in goods and passengers.

SOM PRASAD,
January 16th, 1883.

11. The same paper contains a Bengali translation of the judgment of Justices Field and Tottenham in the appeal case of Tarun Sinha Hazari, who had been sentenced to 20 days' imprisonment by the Joint Magistrate of Chittagong. The Editor condemns the highhanded proceedings of Mr. Manson, the District Collector, in regard to the estate of the deceased zemindar, Fazal Ali Chowdhuri.

The state of Fazal Ali Chowdhuri and the Collector of Chittagong.

NAVABHAKAR,
January 16th, 1883.

12. The *Navabakhar*, of the 15th January, contains two articles on the proceedings of Mr. Manson, the Collector of Chittagong, in the case of Tarun Sinha Hazari, and in the matter of the estate of the deceased zemindar Fazal Ali Chowdhuri of Chittagong. Referring to the acquittal of Tarun Sinha by the High Court, the writer asks what would have been his fate if he had not been a wealthy man and able as he has been to appeal to the High Court? who will save people from officers who under the cloak of law thus commit illegal acts and thus harass innocent men? Let the authorities but imagine that it was a European, and not a native (Tarun Sinha) who has been thus unjustly treated, and they will at once perceive what scenes have been enacted in Chittagong. In the second article the writer dwells upon the rude and cruel treatment to which the widow of Fazal Ali was subjected at the hands of Mr. Manson. It is the recurrence of cases like these that sends a thrill of horror into the hearts of wealthy widows having minor sons. Lord Ripon is earnestly besought to give the matter his careful attention.

The estate of Fazal Ali Chowdhuri and the Collector of Chittagong.

NAVABHAKAR.

13. The same paper exhorts the public to lose no time in coming forward with their criticisms upon the Bengal Municipal Bill. Reserving detailed comments for a future occasion, the editor remarks that the efforts of the legislature in regard to this measure should primarily be directed to increasing the powers of the rate-payers. They should be made to feel that the municipal officers who now lord it over them are really their servants, and not masters. Attention should next be directed to the necessity of allotting particular sums for expenditure in particular wards of a municipality after reserving an amount for the general purposes of the municipality. This is exceedingly desirable, otherwise the rate-payers are not satisfied that they receive any benefits in return for the rates they pay. The third point is, considering the small incomes possessed by most municipalities in this country, it behoves Government to relieve them of the heavier charges which they have now to incur. The police charges have indeed been taken off from them, but there are also others which press heavily upon them. It is desirable that they be relieved of the expenditure now incurred in the maintenance of schools and dispensaries. Municipalities should be required to attend first to the question of water-supply, second to that of roads, and next to that of sanitation. The last remark made by the writer is that the decision of the question whether or not a particular locality should be formed into a municipality should rest in the hands of the inhabitants, and not, as now, in that of the Magistrate. Under the present system the honour is often thrust unasked.

The Bengal Municipal Bill.

NAVABHAKAR.

14. The same paper is exceedingly gratified to read the generous and encouraging remarks made in the last Administration Report of Bengal by the Lieutenant-Governor, regarding vernacular newspapers published in 1881-82. These observations clearly show that Sir Ashley Eden was wrong in his estimate of the vernacular press of these provinces. The writer is grateful to the present Lieutenant-Governor

Mr. Rivers Thompson on Native newspapers.

for his noble desire to raise the status of the native press, and for his recent order to grant to native editors copies of official publications, and prays that they be granted all official reports.

15. The *Sahachar*, of the 17th January, condemns the weakness

SAHACHAR,
January 17th, 1888.

Dacoities in British Burmah.

of the Burmese Commission in dealing with the dacoities which have recently become common in Rangoon. The writer takes the occasion to remark that the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Bernard, like all other administrators of the Punjab School, can put forth "energy" when no energy is needed, but when occasion arises, they are always found nonplussed. The Government of India is asked to send Mr. Mackenzie or some other equally able Bengal Civilian as Chief Commissioner to Burmah.

16. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 30th ultimo, notices a case which is being

UTKAL DIPIKA,
December 30th, 1887.

Chairman of the Cuttack Municipality sued for over-assessment.

heard in the First Moonsiff's court, Cuttack, in which Babu Gouri Sonkar Roy is plaintiff and the Chairman of the Cuttack Municipality is defendant. The plaintiff complains of over-assessment with the municipal tax.

17. The same paper expresses the following opinion with regard to the proposed Rent Law. Sir Richard Garth

UTKAL DIPIKA.

Proposed Rent Law.

has expressed himself against the proposal to fix a certain limited time with regard to the enhancement of rent, but this view cannot be commended. It has been laid down in the Rent Bill that the enhancement of rent when once made shall remain in force for ten years. The object of this provision is doubtless to prevent the zemindars from putting, whenever they please, their ryots to trouble, by bringing law suits against them for enhancement of rent. But if ten years be considered a very long period, one might, say, make it five years. It is, however, necessary that there should be a limitation.

Regarding the proposal to create occupancy rights in homesteads, Sir Richard Garth remarks that it has properly no connection with a Rent Law, and that it is both unjust and unnecessary to interfere in this matter. But notwithstanding the objections raised by the Chief Justice, it is proposed to grant this right to the cultivators only. But it is necessary that the same privilege should be given with regard to all homesteads. It is more difficult for the people of this country to give up their homesteads, than their arable lands. The former Rajahs having regard to this feeling of the people, created many rent-free homesteads. Formerly complaints on the score of dispossession of homesteads was very rare, consequently the people took little care to take out leases of their homesteads. But some years ago, the High Court having set aside the old practice, the number of such cases has increased, thus producing a good deal of harassment. The idea of a permanent right is naturally connected with that of a homestead, and Government ought not to dissociate the one idea from the other. Regarding the proposal as to the transfer of occupancy rights, Sir Richard Garth's objection is that the power on the part of the ryots to make such transfer will lessen the value of zemindar's landed property, and will deprive them of their only source of income. The value of homesteads being increased, it will be difficult on the part of ryots to purchase them. Now, if it has been decided to give to ryots the occupancy right in homesteads, the objections grounded on the alleged loss of zemindars is futile. Provision has been made in the Rent Bill for paying fees to zemindars for the registration of the transfers. Should the fees be considered low, there will be no more objection raised, if, adequate fees be fixed. If, on the one hand, the value of a homestead be increased by making the right therein transferable, ryots, on the other, will learn the necessity of amassing money and of being more mindful about it. Without the right of transfer, homesteads are of no

value. This right ought to be given to the ryots, seeing that they are always anxious to obtain it, and that no evil has resulted where the ryots enjoy this privilege. Another point is, if the right of sale be given, there is no reason why holding should not be liable to sale except for arrears of rent.

UTKAL DARPAN,
December 31st, 1882.

18. The *Utkal Durpan*, of the 31st ultimo, remarks in reference to the year 1882 that has just closed :—This was doubtless a year of prosperity to the

people of India. The state of the crops everywhere occasioned joy. Nowhere did the fear of famine exist. The people generally are now well off. The repeal of the Press Act and the removal of the handcuffs from the hands of native editors have made them and their readers happy. Those acquainted with the subject of Self-Government are jubilant. On account of the impetus given to Native manufactures, manufacturers are happy. In short, under the Government of the illustrious Lord Ripon Bahadur, the people of Bharutbaras spent the year 1882 in great happiness.

BALASORE SAMBAD
BAHIKA,
January 4th, 1883.

19. The *Balasore Sambad Bahika*, of the 4th January, refers to the case of the late post-master of the Baleapal branch office, who has been sentenced to

two years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 for having appropriated the amount of a certain money-order. He had prior to this appropriated the amount of another money-order at another branch office to which he had been removed. For this he had been convicted, and was undergoing a year's imprisonment, when the former case came to light. The Government is reaping the fruits of placing a person on so small a pay in a post of so much responsibility, inasmuch as it has to make good the amount appropriated by the prisoner.

BALASORE
SAMBAD BAHIKA.

20. The same paper says :—In a former issue reference was made to the prevalence of malarious fever in villages under the Baleapal thanah. It is now

reported that cholera is now as fearfully prevalent as fever in Baleapal and Jamukunda. From 10 to 15 persons die daily of cholera in these places. The Doctor attached to the canal office of these parts is himself prostrated by malaria. There are few native kobirajes in this district. The few that are, are afraid to leave their houses. Under these circumstances it is impossible to conceive the distress in which this district has been plunged. It is very necessary to send doctors to this district. If the Government do not send relief at this time, many must perish. It also behoves the local zemindars to render help. If they will not help their ryots in the time of this great calamity, when will they do so?

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 20th January 1883.